

News Release

RiverView Recovery and UMC Plan Recovery Month 2014

By Itollefs on Friday, August 15, 2014

RiverView Recovery Center and the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) are finalizing plans for Recovery Month 2014.

This year's events include a concert by an award winning musician, a recovery celebration with fireworks, a talk from one of recovery's strongest voices for treatment and recovery, and a public screening of a new, ground-breaking documentary on the topic of addiction and recovery in America.

Local events kick off Friday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. at RiverView Recovery on Hwy 2 East of Crookston. Following an evening of recovery speakers, the band Sky Blues will take the stage. Following the band's performance a fireworks show will light the night sky.

On Thursday, September 18, a free public showing of the new documentary The Anonymous People will be held at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium on the UMC campus. The feature length film focuses on the 23.5 million Americans living in long-term recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs and asks the question; "Are deeply entrenched social stigma and discrimination to blame for keeping recovery voices silent and faces hidden?" The film features numerous high visibility Americans including actress Kristen Johnston perhaps best known for her role in the TV show "3<sup>rd</sup> Rock from the Sun." In the documentary Johnston reads from her book, "Guts," "I refuse to feel ashamed of who I am. I most certainly will not be ashamed that I am an addict. I am going to tell whoever I damn well want to." The screening will be followed by Questions and Answers.

Monday, September 22 at 7 p.m. in Kiehle Auditorium, William Cope Moyers takes the stage with his much sought after experience, strength and hope about addiction and recovery. As Vice President of Public Affairs at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Moyers is one of the nation's most renowned speakers in the area of public policy pertaining to addiction and recovery and has been a powerful advocate for change. Moyers is the author of two books which detail his personal journey with addiction and recovery. Moyers calls himself a person in long-term recovery from an illness that has no cure but does have a solution. He has gone on record saying, "The fact that there is still a stigma is unacceptable. Addiction is the most misunderstood disease of our time. But through science and advocacy, we're making important gains. In the past decade alone, we've come a long way in recognizing addiction as a disease and embracing the reality that people do recover. We know that addiction doesn't discriminate, that treatment works, and that recovery is possible." William Cope Moyer's father, journalist Bill Moyers, produced The Hijacked Brain, the critically acclaimed HBO series on addiction.

Wednesday, September 24, singer Mike Farris performs in Kiehle Auditorium at 7 p.m. Farris, winner of the 2008 American Music Association's Award for "Best New or Emerging Artist" has performed with the who's who of American music legends including Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Dave Matthew's Band, Sheryl Crow, and Bob Dylan. With a personal history that includes alcohol and drug addiction, Farris' music celebrates his freedom from chemicals and his faith in God. He said in a recent interview, "I was a destructive person. I was a drug addict and an alcoholic, so being where I am now and being able to share this spiritual music, this great musical heritage from America, and being part of a healing force is great." Farris travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark last year and in an interview there he talked about the diverse music genres that have influenced his style and he cited African American spiritual music as the foundation of his music. "This music was born out of a people in bondage, literal bondage, and because it was born out of struggle, it is still relevant and it is going to be relevant as long as there are people on earth because we are all struggling, we are all trying to figure it out, we are all trying to be free. I spent a lot of time in my life being on the wrong team.

Recovery Month is a national observance each September that spreads the positive message that chemical dependency treatment is effective and people can and do recover. Events will be held across the country throughout the month.

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